

READINGS IN SOCIAL AND ISLAMIC ISSUES

JAMIL FAROOQUI



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Edited by
Jamil Farooqui



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RURAL-URBAN LINKAGES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO JAPAN AND MALAYSIA

Mohammad Aris Othman*

Part One of this paper discusses some of the anthropological studies of cities showing their continuity with the rural areas. The studies show that cities cannot be studied in isolation of the surrounding rural areas. There is continuity between them. They cannot be treated separately because most urbanites were once ruralites. These ruralites bring into the city their rural characteristics and the presence of "urban villages" in cities account for the presence of the rural characteristics.

Part Two of this paper discusses the traditional Japanese (i.e.) institution, which facilitates the smooth flow of migrants to towns thus providing a linkage between cities and villages. The *Oyabun-Kobun* (father-son) relationship emphasized in traditional Japanese household is also incorporated in Japanese firms in the cities and influences Japanese management styles.

Part Three of this paper discusses continuity between cities and villages by looking at "linkages" provided by the existence of urban villages and ethnic associations in the Malaysian case. These ethnic associations also act as mechanisms that provide psycho-cultural "comfort" to ruralites, especially in the initial stages of their migration to the cities.

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